

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCCT-01 EUR-12 SR-02 ORM-01 /036 W
----- 005590

R 142045Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2893
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2258

EO 11653: GDS
TAGS: CI, PFOR, IS, PLO
SUBJ: PLO LEADER VISITS CHILE

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS INTERVIEW PUBLISHED APRIL 13, WAHID MOHAMMAD, IDENTIFIED AS PLO DIRECTOR FOR LATIN AMERICA, HAS BEEN VISITING CHILE FOR LAST TWO WEEKS. WAHID SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH PALESTINE REFUGEE PROBLEMS, AND HAD MET WITH LOCAL ARAB COMMUNITY AND GOC OFFICIALS ON THIS AND OTHER TOPICS. IN INTERVIEW, HE REPEATED PLO POSITION ON FORMATION OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. HE DENIED PLO ROLE IN MANY TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, BLAMING MOST OF THEM ON "ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE".

2. VISIT FOLLOWS THAT OF ARIEH L. DULZIN, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER OF WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION IN MID MARCH. SOME OF DULZIN'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS BROUGHT SHARP JOINT PUBLIC REJOINDER FROM EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN, AND JORDANIAN AMBASSADORS HERE. NEITHER VISIT ATTRACTED MUCH ATTENTION, HOWEVER.

3. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR APRIL 11, COUNSELOR OF JORDANIAN EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO STATED THAT "98 PERCENT" OF PALESTINIAN ARAB COMMUNITY IN CHILE WAS PRO PLO. THIS CREATES DIFFICULTIES FOR EMBASSY, WHICH IS OF COURSE LOYAL TO KING HUSSEIN. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR ESTIMATES THERE ARE CLOSE TO 100,000 PERSONS OF ARAB
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DESCENT IN CHILE, AND STATES -- RIGHTLY, WE BELIEVE --

THAT ALL BUT A FEW THOUSAND ARE RELATED BY ANCESTRY TO
PALESTINIAN ARABS. ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNITY IN CHILE
CONSISTS OF SECOND TO FOURTH GENERATION CHILEANS (KNOWN
AS TURCOS, BECAUSE OF STATUS OF TERRITORIES OF ORIGIN AT
TIME THEIR ANCESTORS DEPARTED), THEY CONTINUE TO BE
INTERESTED IN MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS, THOUGH NOT TO POINT
OF ANY GREAT DEGREE OF ACTIVISM.
POPPER

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